

Confronting Impaired Waterways in Iowa

It is time to get all parties moving in the same direction to help clean up impaired waterways in Iowa. We will never have improvement with the double standards that exist today. It is very clear that voluntary programs within the agriculture community are not working. There are some producers implementing good practices such as adequate grass waterways and sufficient setbacks from bodies of water, although too often this is not the case.

Outdoor recreation in Iowa often times involves some sort of water usage – be it lakes, ponds, streams, or rivers. People are drawn to water for a variety of usages – swimming, boating, fishing, canoeing, and just enjoying nature. The time is now to level the playing field with mandatory rules and guidelines for all. Let's turn the corner to the right path to improve water quality for Iowans and our out of state

Water quality continues to decline. Let's make some good decisions and all work together to implement a plan that will lead to a cleaner aquatic environment. This isn't a time for baby steps.



Spring 2013 – A major renovation of Highway 86 in Dickinson County. The construction firm doing the work was required to install miles of silt screening.



Spring 2013 – A construction firm replaced a concrete box culvert on a rural gravel road for a stream (hidden within the trees) leading to the Little Sioux River. Numerous silt screen fences were installed, while, as seen beyond, crops were planted to the streams edge.



Spring 2013 – This picture is south from highway 9 in Dickinson County showing farming practices right up to the stream bank for over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on the Little Sioux river.